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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 28 May 1948

SUBJECT Arrests of Communists Continue

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. Numerous political arrests have recently been made in Yugoslavia with 200 imprisoned in Ljubljana and proportionate numbers in Zagreb and other centers. Among the leading Communists arrested was Juranic, General Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, as well as many veterans of the Spanish Civil War. Zujovic, General Secretary of the National Front and Finance Minister, and Hebrang, former Secretary of the Croat Communist Party were both relieved of their positions. Purges are expected also in the diplomatic corps.
2. The causes of upheaval are considered to be as follows:
  - a. The failure of the Five-Year Plan.
  - b. The rivalry among Communist representatives from constituent Republics.
  - c. The disagreement on policy (the moderate wing of the Communist Party is opposed to the extreme campaign measures for world Communism).
  - d. The disagreement on the Soviet Union (the moderates favor the preservation of Yugoslav sovereignty).

**Comment:** According to many unconfirmed reports, purges within the Communist ranks began in Yugoslavia in January 1948, with the rate increasing during April and May. The Ljubljana trials of the Communist leaders at the end of April resulted in eleven death sentences. The individuals involved were all members of a clique close to the former President of Slovenia, Boris Kidric, who is at present chief of the Economic Planning Commission. It was believed at first that this purge was aimed at Kidric himself, whose name disappeared from the public press for about two months. Recently, however, Kidric's name is again prominent in all Communist publicity. The individuals involved in Communist purges are usually accused of being "secret servants of the imperialist reaction" or "spies and saboteurs attempting to overthrow the people's government."

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DDA Memo

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Next Review Date: 2003

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